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C 13489

Country: USSR

Subject: Reported Coal Mine Disaster in the Karaganda Oblast/Outbreak of Hospitalized Miners 50X1

Place Acquired:

Date Acquired:

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Date of Info: March 1953

Source:

1. "Two serious mine disasters occurred in March 1953 in the Karaganda coal mining center. About 200 miners are said to have been killed and over 1,400 injured. Explosion of coal dust caused the first disaster. The collapse of the ceiling over a large section of pit corridors caused the second disaster. Both cases were investigated by a special commission from the Institute of Labor Protection, which is subordinated to the Central Committee of the Profsoyuz (Trade Union) in Moscow.

2. "As a result of these two disasters a serious controversy has arisen between the CP authorities and the management of the mines. The CP political commission, headed by (fnu) Barag, accused the mining management of lack of safety precautions and necessary technical equipment. The mining management, particularly (fnu) Obukhov, Director of the Stalinugol Coal Mine Combine, retorted that these two disasters occurred because the CP authorities themselves had sent unqualified workers to the mines.

3. "Because the controversy was still going on at the end of March, the injured miners and the families of those who had been killed or disabled received no wages or allowances.

4. "Some unrest broke out at the hospital of the Oblast Department of Health in Karaganda at the end of March when hundreds of wounded miners, under treatment there, learned that their families were receiving no compensation allowances. The miners staged a hunger strike and started to destroy the furniture and the office of the hospital management. During the demonstration the chief of propaganda of the coal mine center, (fnu) Adilov, was badly beaten by the rioters. The chief of the Oblast Department of Health, (fnu) Yura, called the Militia, which soon quelled the riot. The commanding officer of the Militia ordered the immediate arrest of 40 rioting workers. The men were transferred from the hospital to prison."

- end -

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